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Navy & Marine Corps Medical News  
MN-99-17  
April 30, 1999

This service distributes medical news and information to Sailors and Marines, their families, civilian employees, and retired Navy and Marine Corps families. Further dissemination of this email is highly encouraged. Stories in MEDNEWS use these abbreviations after a Navy medical professional's name to show affiliation: MC - Medical Corps (physician); DC - Dental Corps; NC - Nurse Corps; MSC - Medical Service Corps (Navy researchers and administrative managers). Corpsmen and Dental Technician designators are identified in front of their names.

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Headline: Medical Inspector General Partners With JCAHO  
>From Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

WASHINGTON -- In an example of restructuring business practices to improve efficiency for Navy medical treatment facilities (MTF) the Naval Medical Inspector General (IG) and Joint Commission Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) will soon partner up.

Beginning June 1st, the Naval Medical Inspector General will visit MTFs when JCAHO is scheduled for survey. Dental commands located near the MTFs can expect a visit at the same time.

The Naval Medical IG assures the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity at medical and dental activities. JCAHO is a private, not-for-profit organization and is the leading accrediting body in the world. Its mission is to improve the quality of care provided to the public.

"The major benefit of the partnership is that hospitals

will have one inspection to be concerned about in a three year period instead of two," said CAPT Harry C. Coffey, MSC, director of medical administration matters for the Medical IG at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

A tentative three-year schedule will be sent to all MTF commanding officers within 30 days.

There are still some specifics to work out between the new partners in order to eliminate redundancy. However, the inspection process is continuing to improve. Address any questions to Captain Harry C. Coffey, MSC, at (301) 295-9008, DSN 295-9008, or HCCoffey@us.med.navy.mil.

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Headline: Great Lakes Medal of Honor hall, a labor of love  
By LT Youssef H. Aboul-Enein, MSC, Naval Hospital Great Lakes

GREAT LAKES, Ill. -- Gail Kennemore, a 12-year employee at Naval Hospital Great Lakes, has worked for over a year to establish a Medal of Honor Hall at the Naval Hospital. And her hard work hasn't gone unnoticed.

The staff at Great Lakes reported for work recently to see a museum quality exhibit that honors the many corpsmen and Navy Medical personnel who received America's highest honor.

Kennemore's passion to create a Medal of Honor Hall is evident in the care with which the Americana wall paper, citations, frames and photos that decorate the walls were chosen. Her dedication is rooted by a personal link.

Among the photos of those who received the Congressional Medal of Honor is Kennemore's father, Robert S. Kennemore, a Marine Staff Sergeant. Staff Sgt. Kennemore absorbed an explosion of an enemy grenade to save the lives of his fellow Marines during an engagement with North Korean forces in 1950.

"My father instilled in me a love for our armed forces," said Kennemore who works at the hospital's Operations Management Department, explaining why she's been active with the Medal of Honor Society for many years.

Staff Sgt. Kennemore survived the grenade attack, losing his leg and receiving the nation's highest honor for bravery by the late President Harry S. Truman. But his story does not end there, for the Marine tried for many years to seek the Navy corpsman that saved his life. He even put out a story in the San Francisco Examiner newspaper. In the newspaper article, Staff Sgt. Kennemore recollects how this Navy corpsman came upon his shattered body that suffered a direct grenade explosion. He recounts how he dressed up his leg and how it was so cold that the corpsman warmed frozen vials of morphine in his mouth, taking enemy fire and being hit. Both the corpsman and Staff Sgt. Kennemore were treated at a field hospital and that was the last he had seen of this gallant corpsman.

"My father passed away without finding the corpsman who

saved him. Various hospital staff have given their time and efforts to make this hall possible, it has been a labor of love for me, a way in some fashion to show gratitude that my father had for that corpsman and so many like him," said Kennemore.

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Headline: Hospital Corpsman selected as CINCUSNAVEUR Sailor of the Year  
>From NAVEUR News Bulletin

LONDON, England -- HM1(FMF) David M. Matthews, formerly of the U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, Italy, was selected as the 1998 Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe's (CINCUSNAVEUR) Sailor of the Year (SOY) during a luncheon at CINCUSNAVEUR Headquarters in London, England. Matthews is currently serving at Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group Atlantic (FASOTRAGRULANT) Detachment, Brunswick, Maine.

Matthews, a native of Brythe, California, was chosen from five finalists representing Navy commands from throughout the CINCUSNAVEUR area of responsibility.

"To think of all the professional Sailors in Europe and to know that I'm now representing them is very humbling," said Matthews. "I owe all my success to my family. Without their support I wouldn't be here right now." He added that his command and close friends were also instrumental in his recognition.

"One thing that really stands out about the whole process was how all the candidates came together as a team during our week in London for the selection process," said Matthews. "All the (SOY) selectees were pulling for each other. We came here as strangers and left as friends."

The other finalists for the SOY were AC1(AW) Tammy L. Faircloth of Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy; YN1(AW) Russell K. Gray of U.S. European Command; NC1(SW) Ann-Marie A. Noad of Joint Maritime Facility, St. Mawgan, United Kingdom; and AO1(AW) Daryl R. Worley of Naval Station Rota, Spain.

Matthews will go on to compete in Washington, DC, to represent CINCUSNAVEUR at the Navy's Shore Sailor of the Year competition.

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Headline: Student flight surgeons receive top honors  
>From Naval Operational Medicine Institute, Pensacola, Fla.

Pensacola, Fla. -- Two student naval flight surgeons at the Naval Operational Medicine Institute were honored as top performers at Naval Aviation Schools Command graduation ceremonies on April 21st.

LT Laurant Pierre, French Navy, was recognized for his outstanding academic performance during the 6-week preflight indoctrination program. Pierre is one of two international

students currently enrolled in the student naval flight surgeon program. Pierre will be resuming duties as a naval flight surgeon in the French Navy in July.

LT Timothy Jones, MC, received honors as the top physical fitness performer. An avid runner, Jones completed the 1.5 mile cross-country run in 7 min 11 sec. He also placed third in the 1999 Blue Angels Marathon race earlier this spring. Jones will receive his naval flight surgeon wings in July.

Both were selected from a class of 47 student Naval Aviators, Naval Flight Officers, Naval Flight Surgeons, and Naval Aerospace Physiologists.

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Headline: Silver Anchor awarded to Corps School  
By LT Luz Jacqueline Rosas, MSC, USNR, Naval Hospital Corps School

GREAT LAKES, Ill. -- The Naval Hospital Corps School was awarded the 1998 Silver Anchor award for its excellence in career information and personnel programs.

This is the second consecutive year that the Corps School has received this prestigious award given by Chief of Naval Education and Training.

Receiving this award highlights the team effort between Naval Training Center, Great Lakes and tenant commands.

"This award shows that we've been successful in getting out career and retention information so our Sailors can make informed decisions about their careers," said HMCS(SW/FMF) Charles Henning, command career counselor.

In addition to training his retention team, Senior Chief Henning provided HM "A" School students with a weekly career information brief and a field medical service school brief. Additionally, the command Professional Development Board met monthly to ensure that the career and professional development of corps school staff had been met.

In cooperation with area career counselors at Naval Training Center, Recruit Training Command, Service School Command, and the Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Senior Chief Henning provided career information training to local area personnel.

It took the interdisciplinary cooperation among departments and coordination among people from Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, and other branch medical clinics to achieve a second consecutive retention award.

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Headline: TRICARE question and answer

Question: What should I do if I'm a Prime enrollee and get sick while traveling outside my region? What if the 800 number is busy and I can't make contact?

Answer: You should contact your Primary Care Manager for instructions in a non-emergency situation. Authorization

for care can also be obtained from the Health Care Finders.

For non-urgent or non-emergency care you must first obtain authorization. If you see a physician without authorization for a non-emergency problem, you will still be covered for some of the costs incurred under the Point-of-Service option. That option pays 50 percent of the cost after a separate, somewhat higher deductible is met (\$300 for single enrollment and \$600 for family enrollment).

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Headline: Healthwatch: Medical advice for the international traveler

By CAPT Don Mason, MC, Naval Hospital Pensacola

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- With spring and summer just ahead, many people are considering trips abroad for vacations. Now is the time to prepare for those medical requirements of traveling overseas.

If your travel plans include a trip to Central or South America, Africa, and some parts of Europe and Asia, see your family physician at least a month and a half before you leave. Certain vaccination may be needed and some do not reach their peak effectiveness until six weeks after they're administered.

In addition to visiting your family doctor, you can visit the Center for Disease Control's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/travel.htm>, or St. Anthony Family Practice Residency at <http://www.saintafpr.com/travel>, for specific recommendations concerning the area you are going to visit.

Additionally, the Center for Disease Control has a 24-hour, toll free telephone line at (888) 232-3299. Many areas have specific recommendations for vaccinations against hepatitis A and B, yellow fever, typhoid and rabies, in addition to the usual diseases of polio, tetanus, and rubella for which vaccinations are given.

Also, many areas require taking pills to prevent malaria. These pills must be started before your trip and continue after the trip.

Anywhere from 20 to 30 percent of international travelers complain of traveler's diarrhea, also known as Turkey Trots, Montezuma's Revenge, or Delhi Belly. The best advice for eating food abroad, if you want to avoid the effects of these euphemisms, is to "boil it, peel it, or forget it."

Undercooked foods, impure water, and poor food handler hygiene can all taint delicious appearing foods with any of a number of infectious agents that cause diarrhea. Before leaving, talk to your doctor about carrying protective treatments like Pepto Bismol and antibiotic pills with you in the event that diarrhea occurs.

Some general tips to stay healthy while abroad are:

- Take your prescription medications in their original containers, and be sure you have enough to cover the whole trip and any potential delays.

- Take any over-the-counter medications you may need for cold symptoms, minor aches and pains, medication for motion sickness, and a small first aid kit (scissors, tweezers, Band-Aids, etc).

- Protect yourself with insect repellent. If you are going to a country with a risk of malaria or other mosquito-borne diseases, those repellents that contain DEET work best. Also, wear clothing treated with permethrin, a type of insect repellent, and use bed nets when sleeping.

A little early planning and preparation can help you enjoy your international trip in good health. Before leaving always check out the State Department's travel warnings on the Internet at [http://travel.state.gov/travel\\_warnings.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html).

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Comments about and ideas for MEDNEWS are welcome. Story submissions are encouraged. Contact MEDNEWS editor, Earl W. Hicks, at email: [mednews@us.med.navy.mil](mailto:mednews@us.med.navy.mil); Telephone 202/762-3223, (DSN) 762-3223, or fax 202/762-3224.

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